

Context Clues

Definition Clue

The definition of the word is included in the sentence or passage.

- A. When I grow up, I want to be an ICHTHYOLOGIST, a person who studies fish.

- B. The Indian paused, looking sadly at the dry river called an ARROYO.

Example Clue

Examples of the unknown word are included in the sentence or passage.

- A. The fat man CHORTLED at the joke, chuckling and snorting loudly.

- B. Several rules of ETIQUETTE are commonplace, including saying "please" and "thank you".

- C. The FEISTY child, who was very active and jittery, would not sit quietly in his chair.

Synonym Clue

A word or phrase with the same meaning as the unknown word is included in the sentence or passage.

- A. The ring was guaranteed to be GENUINE—real diamonds and rubies.

- B. The floor was IMMACULATE, but with the children home on a rainy day, there was no way for it to stay spotless.

Antonym Clue

The opposite meaning of the unknown word is included in the passage and often signaled by a conjunction (but, while, however).

- A. My grandmother shops for RELICS from her childhood, while I prefer something new.

- B. The FLAMBOYANT costumes were very noticeable next to the drab, black robes of the choir.

Series Clue

The unknown word is included in a series of known words in the sentence or passage.

- A. The kite flew out of control, twisting, churning, and PLUMMETING to the earth.
- _____

- B. The surface of the moon was rocky, CRAGGY, and mountainous.
- _____

Cause-Effect Clue

Either the cause or the effect of the unknown word is included in the sentence or passage.

- A. A curtain of deep lilac swept across the lake OBSCURING the sight of the mountain in the darkness.
- _____

- B. The chameleon is CAMOUFLAGED in the branches because it turns the color of its surroundings and does not move.
- _____

Experience Clue

The reader's previous experience provides aid in defining the unknown word.

- A. A mirror image of the lovely mountain hung INVERTED in the lake, for the surface was like glass.
- _____

- B. As the plane flew higher, the size of the city below began to DIMINISH before Paul's eyes.
- _____

General Sense of the Passage Clue

The meaning of the unknown word can be inferred from the general context of the sentence or passage.

- A. Alan PERSISTED in bouncing the ball in the house even after I asked him not to.
- _____

- B. After Mrs. Parson's ENLIGHTENING talk, we felt we had learned a great deal about whales.
- _____